

ABSTRACT

Disclosed is an agent for digesting a protein highly resistant to denaturation and degradation, comprising as an active ingredient an enzyme exhibiting an activity of digesting a protein highly resistant to denaturation and degradation and having the following properties:

- (a) activity and substrate specificity: hydrolyzing a peptide bond of a protein highly resistant to denaturation and degradation;
- (b) molecular weight: 31,000 (determined by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis using a homogeneous gel having a gel concentration of 12%);
- (c) isoelectric point: pI 9.3 (determined by polyacrylamide gel isoelectric focusing electrophoresis);
- (d) optimum pH: pH 9.0 to 10.0; and
- (e) optimum temperature for activity: 60 to 70°C.